



Town of Arlington
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Board of Health

27 Maple Street
Arlington, MA 02476

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KEEPING OF HENS SITE PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION

These guidelines are not final requirements. The Board of Health may require additional information based on the type and location of operation.

Plan Review Fee: \$150.00 (checks made payable to: Town of Arlington)

For office use only: Date/time application received: _____ Received by: _____
(BOH Staff)

APPLICANT NAME: _____

APPLICANT ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NUMBER: _____

CONTACT EMAIL: _____

Keeping of Hens Application Process Summary

1. Submit this Site Plan Review Application to Health Department with check for \$150.
2. Health Department reviews application and conducts site walk.
3. After plan review and site walk, a meeting date with the Board of Health is set. The applicant will notify all abutters at least 14 days but no more than 30 days prior to the hearing, of their intent to keep hens and the BOH hearing date, time and location. Abutters shall include both owners and tenants. The applicant shall provide verification of notification in the form of a signed letter or USPS receipt that a certified letter has been received.
4. A meeting with the Board of Health is held and a decision made to approve or deny application based upon all requirements set forth in town bylaw.
5. Once approved by the Board of Health, the applicant is required to submit an Application for Annual Permit to Keep Hens to the Health Department with a check for \$100 and the applicant will be permitted to construct coop and pen.
6. A final inspection is conducted once coop and pen have been constructed and final approval to keep hens is granted.
7. An annual permit to keep hens is required through the Health Department expiring April 1st of every year. A renewal permit must be obtained. Permit holders that fail to renew their keeping of hens permit prior to April 1st are subject to a \$100 reinstatement fee.
8. An annual inspection will be conducted by the Health Department. Failure to meet requirements set forth in the town bylaws may result in a re-inspection fee of \$100 and a hearing with the Board of Health to determine whether permit should be revoked, suspended, or subject to further conditions.

CIRCLE/ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Is the applicant the sole owner of the property where hens will be kept? YES/NO
If no, please provide signed written statements from all property owners granting permission for the keeping of hens.

What is the size of the property lot in square feet? _____

I. HENHOUSE / PEN:

1. Location

- a. Will the henhouse/pen enclosure be in the rear yard of the property? YES/NO
- b. Will the henhouse/pen enclosure be at least six (6) feet from all property lines? YES/NO
- c. Will the henhouse/pen enclosure be at least 25 feet from existing residences on adjacent lots? YES/NO
- d. Will the henhouse/pen enclosure be located at least 200 feet from the high water mark of any known source of drinking water supply or any tributary thereof, and at least 50 feet from any well? YES/NO
- e. Will the henhouse/pen enclosure conform to all relevant property setbacks for accessory structures as specified in sections 6.18 and 8.23 of the zoning bylaws? YES/NO
- f. Will the henhouse/pen enclosure interfere with any utility or other feature of the property that needs suitable access? YES/NO
- g. Will the henhouse/pen enclosure be located in a well-drained area that does not discharge to a public way or neighbor's property? YES/NO
- h. Please provide a certified plot plan depicting all of the following: all structures on property, all structures on abutting properties, and proposed locations of the henhouse/pen enclosure, composting/manure storage and food storage.

2. Construction

- a. Will the henhouse enclosure provide a minimum interior floor surface of at least two (2) square feet per bird? YES/NO
- b. Will the pen enclosure provide a minimum ground surface of at least five (5) square feet per bird? YES/NO
- c. Will the henhouse/pen enclosure be securely constructed in a manner that excludes predators and pests, including those that fly, burrow and reach? YES/NO
- d. Will the pen enclosure have a predator and pest proof material across the top? YES/NO
- e. Will the henhouse provide protection from the elements as needed? YES/NO
- f. Will the henhouse be constructed in such a manner and with such materials that allow for effective weekly cleaning? YES/NO
- g. Please provide a separate detailed description of the henhouse/ pen enclosure, including square footages and photographs if possible.

3. Maintenance

- a. Will the feed be securely stored in a rodent and pest proof container? YES/NO
- b. Will the feed leftover from feeding remain in an area accessible to rodents and pests past dusk? YES/NO
- c. If weather is too cold, or composting is otherwise not possible, will there be a sealable container for waste to be stored until disposal? YES/NO
- d. If composting is possible, how and where will waste be composted with carbonaceous material such as hay, bedding, or leaves? Please identify composting/ manure storage location on required certified plot plan.
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e. What measures will be taken to prevent the buildup of pests or rodent populations due to the presence of hens on the property?

f. Please provide a separate detailed written maintenance plan describing the following: cleaning practices and schedule for the henhouse/pen enclosure and feed and water containers, which anti-bacterial/viral cleaning solution will be used, which bedding material will be used in the henhouse and at which depth it will be provided, how frequently the bedding material will be composted, and any other appropriate nuisance (odor & noise) prevention measures that will be taken.

II. HENS:

1. Hen keeper

- a. Will the hen keeper be taking, or has the hen keeper taken, a class in keeping hens? YES/NO
If yes, please provide a copy of a certificate of completion from a hen-keeping course.
- b. Will there be a knowledgeable person in charge to care for hens during vacations or extended leaves? YES/NO

2. Source

a. What type of hens and how many hens will you be keeping?

b. Will the hens be acquired from S. pullorum clean sources from National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) participants? YES/NO

c. Where will the hens be acquired from and what documentation will be provided?

3. Health & Disease Concerns

a. Will the hens be vaccinated from any communicable diseases? YES/NO

If yes, from what? _____

b. Will newly acquired hens be isolated from healthy resident birds? YES/NO

If yes, where and for how long? _____

c. Will the hens be separated from wild migratory fowl at all times? YES/NO

d. What will be done with a hen if it dies? _____

To complete this application the following materials must be provided:

- Copy of list of property abutters obtained from Town of Arlington Assessors Office
- If applicant is not sole property owner, signed written statements from all property owners granting permission for the keeping of hens
- Plot plan drawn to scale depicting all of the following: all structures on property, all structures on abutting properties, proposed locations of the henhouse/pen enclosure, composting/manure storage and food storage, and distance of henhouse and pen from property lines and existing adjacent residences. The BOH reserves the right to require the applicant to provide a plot plan certified by a professional engineer or land surveyor to resolve any questions or disputes relating to the conformance of the placement of the henhouse and pen with any and all relevant property setbacks and zoning bylaw requirements.
- Written maintenance plan and description of henhouse/pen enclosure
- Copy of certificate of completion from a hen-keeping course if applicable
- After a BOH hearing date has been set, submit a copy of signed letter or receipt from USPS that a certified letter has been received by each abutter informing them of your application to keep hens and notifying them of the BOH hearing date, time and location. Abutters include both property owners and tenants.

I have read the town bylaws regarding the keeping of hens and understand the requirements as outlined. I understand failure to comply with the requirements of the town bylaws and failure to prevent a public health nuisance may result in revocation of my Permit to Keep Hens.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

-----Office use only-----

Board of Health Meeting Date Assigned: _____